

BEIJING TODAY

北京青年报

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

May 3 2013-May 9 2013

NO. 621 CN11-0120

HTTP://WWW.BEIJINGTODAY.COM.CN

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Party styles for
summer

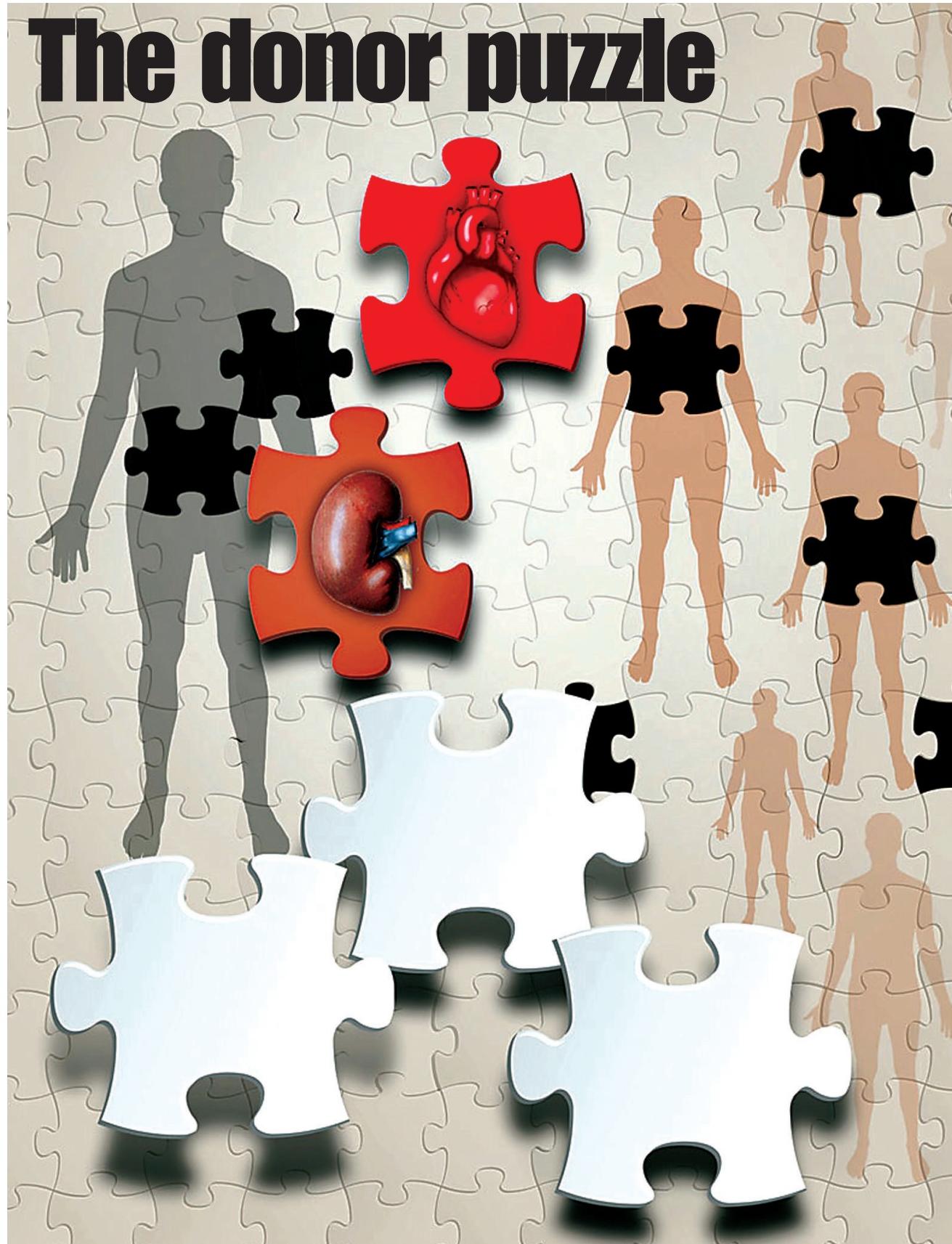
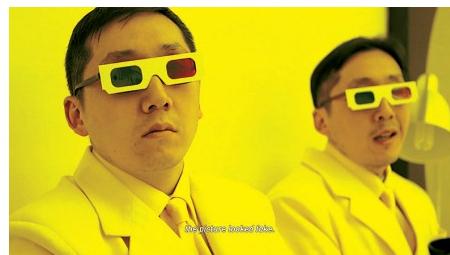
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Born eccentric

Given his flamboyant personality, it may be hard to imagine that director Chen Zhou's latest art film is a "black comedy."



More electric
taxis head for
the outskirts

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Japanese film
comes to
China's stage

Page 6

Each year, 1.5 million Chinese people need an organ transplant: only 700 volunteer to become organ donors.

After years of coming up short, the government has decided to act. The National Management Center for Organ Donations is hoping a new nationwide donor database will offer a lifeline to patients who have been left stranded.

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Roland Berger advises MNCs in a maturing China

By Zhao Hongyi

The days of cheap labor in China are ending. The “golden days” for multinational companies (MNCs) are over, according to Roland Berger Strategy Consultants, a famous French company that released a report about how MNCs can adjust to this new playing field.

In Chinese Market Maturing: Challenges and Opportunities for MNCs, Roland Berger says that China is losing its “emerging market” characteristics. The costs of labor, raw materials, energy, real estate and transportation are all on the rise.

Strong Chinese players such as Huawei and Haier are becoming global competitors, challenging MNCs even in their home markets.

The maturation of the Chinese market, macroeconomic volatility and China’s slowing GDP growth are all putting new pressures on MNCs.

Despite the new challenges, the report shows that MNCs in China remain optimistic: 74 percent of respondents to Roland Berger’s 2012 MNC Business Confidence Survey indicated that China is “increasingly important to their com-



IKEA, one of the first multinational companies to come to China, is facing increasing competition for its home-use appliances.

CFP Photo

pany,” and 63 percent are “considering major new investments in China.”

The global economic depression cast a shadow on these companies and is forcing them to cut costs.

Meanwhile, the competition is becoming fierce in China with emerging local brands. They are more familiar with the market, and taking market shares that transnational companies have built up in the past

three decades in China.

More importantly, the Chinese economy’s growth is slowing and market supervision is tightening.

All these developments have made the future murky for foreign companies.

“Facing these market fluctuations and changes, transnational companies must adjust their business formulas if they want to keep their successful positions,” said Yannig Gourmelon, partner and executive supervisor at Roland Berger.

Gourmelon also raised three points of consideration for foreign companies in China.

First, to reduce selling, general and administrative expenses. MNCs tend to spend much more than Chinese companies on benefits, rents and professional services relative to revenue (around 12 to 15 percent, versus 7 to 9 percent).

Structural reorganization, operations optimization, and staff and non-staff cost-cutting can reduce the gap with local competitors.

For instance, they can remake their annual budget using “zero-base budgeting” to control their budgets.

The second is to develop

new growth patterns. Strategic and operational initiatives to redefine products and brands, expand channels, select appropriate M&A targets, understand Chinese consumers, and optimize distribution and sales can help MNCs increase revenues and market share in China.

For instance, foreign companies can purchase native Chinese companies to explore markets and enlarge their production capability, incubate the potential customers and optimize their logistic networks.

The third way is to implement dual strategies: MNCs can combine the advantages of being international companies with those of being local players. Creating JVs allows MNCs to sell a broad range of products at lower cost while benefiting from “local” status.

“Dual branding” strategies, in which MNCs market their original brands as “premium imports” while also creating local brands, helps them reach more consumers without diluting or downgrading brand equity and image.

“They should localize their business in China more, like recruiting more Chinese,” Yannig Gourmelon said.

Dutch film festival opens on China's popular video websites

By Liu Xiaochen

From April 24 to July 24, people will be able to watch Dutch movies for free on Youku and Tudou as part of the Dutch embassy’s “online film festival” called One Touch.

Twenty feature films, documentaries and children’s films are available, telling stories ranging from Dutch history to soccer to dance.

“The Netherlands is famous for being innovative, creative and open-minded,” said Patrick J. de Vries, the press counselor of the Dutch embassy. “Holland has its own strengths in filmmaking, such as the application of science and technology in 3D fantasy film.”

“We do this online to give a wider audience more flexibility for watching,” he said. “We have three ways of promoting our films: between academies (in China and the Netherlands), between governments and among audience-goers at festivals such as this.”

Pieter Fleury, director of the documentary department



ONETOUCH poster

Photos provided by Dutch Embassy

in NL Film Foundation, said the Netherlands and China have a long history of video cooperation, dating back to the 1930s.

“After a few decades, we’ve lost touch,” he said. “At this moment, we have to renew our contact.”

“At the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, the Netherlands’s largest film festival, we also screened Chinese films,” Fleury added. “So Dutch audiences are also trying to learn about China through its films.”

The online film festival has many genres, including drama, action, sports, celebrities, music and culture.

Armin van Buuren, a renowned DJ, makes his appearance in the documentary *God is My DJ*. The viewer follows the founder of the famous dance party Sensation, Duncan Stutterheim, as he introduces.

The Netherlands is also notable for its great soccer players. The director of the documentary *Ajax, Hear the Herald Angels Sing* followed the team

to give an inside account of being a soccer player.

Among the children’s films available is *Kauwboy*, which has won multiple international awards, including a prestigious prize at last year’s Berlin International Film Festival.

Another award-winning film, *Winky’s Horse*, is about a Chinese girl living in Holland and celebrating a typical Dutch festival. Adults will also enjoy these movies about parent-child relations and growing up in a multicultural society.

Two Dutch actors, Carice van Houten and Barry Atsma, feature in the popular film *Stricken*. The story is about a man’s life during the illness of his wife and based on a book that has autobiographic characteristics.

The Netherlands attaches great importance to cooperation with China. Its culture minister will visit in December not only to promote the film industry, but all creative industries, including design, fashion and art.

Suburbs see boom in electric taxis

By Liu Xiaochan

Taxis have always been a rare sight in Beijing's suburbs. In their absence, residents have come to depend on a vast fleet of illegal cabs that carry expensive fares and other hidden dangers.

Yanqing County was the first to seek a solution. In 2011, it began running several electric taxis.

The green-energy cars now provide taxi service to seven rural areas including Yanqing, Fangshan, Pinggu, Changping, Huairou, Miyun and Daxing.

Subway extension

Unlike unlicensed cabs, electric taxis are approved by the state to be operated for profit. Passenger safety is guaranteed.

The taxis begin billing at 8 yuan, with 2 yuan added for each kilometer traveled after the first three.

"It used to cost me 20 yuan to take an unlicensed cab to work. The new cabs can save me 12 yuan each day" said a Daxing District resident surnamed Zhang. "Electric cars may not be able to travel great distances, but for residents like me it's enough."

"I never used the unlicensed cabs because their drivers tend to huddle in a few locations. They are not helpful if I'm in a hurry, and my family would worry about my safety," said a college student surnamed Luo who lives in Changping District.

Suburban demand for electric taxis is strong, and the district government sees them as an extension of the subway network.

"Beijing is too big. I live in Daxing District and commute to work in Haidian District by subway. There is no subway station near my home or bus to get me to one, it's also far to ride a bike – even if I did, the subway doesn't provide a place to lock it," said an IT worker surnamed Yu. "For me, an electric taxi is the best option."

The drivers of the electric taxis earn quite a bit: some gross 8,000 yuan with 4,000 yuan profit. The time required to charge an electric taxi, 6 to 8 hours, gives them a fixed rest period.

Some unlicensed cab drivers have started to apply for permission to drive an electric taxi.

Technology troubles

The biggest problem with electric taxis is maintaining a charge: long charging sessions eat into efficiency.

"We have to charge twice a day to have a satisfying income level," said an electric taxi driver in Daxing District.

Wang Jingzhong, executive vice president of China Battery Industry Association, said there is a way to charge the battery within 30 minutes, but it cuts the battery life in half.

"Electric cars should be standardized to determine where batteries go and what size batteries they should take," he said. "Relevant government departments are studying to draft a new standard."

Professor Lin Cheng, associate director of the National Engineering Lab for Electric Vehicles at Beijing Institute of Technology, said there are new batteries that can charge quickly and last longer. These may cost 50 percent more and have a smaller capacity.



Electric taxis have been on the streets of Fangshan District since April 2012.

CFP Photos



Beijing's first charging station is in Yanqing County.

"If the taxis all run the same model of electric cars, we could create a system where they can swap out the batteries to keep driving," he said. "Standardized batteries are currently only useful for larger buses and trucks."

Specialists from the Beijing Municipal Science and Technology Commission said electric taxis are designed only as convenient transportation within the region – mileage is of limited concern.

Yu Zhuoping, head of Tongji University's School of Automotive Studies, said electric cars are also having safety problems.

"The electric car meets the same mechanical standards as combustion-engine automobiles. But compared to conventional vehicles, electric vehicles carry the additional danger of high-voltage shock and other electrical safety issues," he said.

According to statistics from the China electric vehicle center for test driving, China's electric vehicles lag behind the world standard by about five years.

Foreign countries have favored hybrid cars, which save a lot of gas. Only a few demo cities such as some in California are running purely electric cars.

Policy background

At present, the Beijing Municipal Science and Technology Commission holds the position that regional electric taxis are "not-for-profit tools" for transportation within the outer districts.

But electric cars are at the forefront of the central government's new energy strategy in the 12th Five-Year Plan. During the next 10 years, it plans to make heavy investments in electric cars and other new-energy industries.

The municipal government is already heavily invested in electric cars. New energy automotive pioneers such as BYD, Zotye Auto and

Chery regard the Beijing market as their biggest opportunity.

Wan Jinpeng, head of BAIC Group's department of management, said improving electric cars is essential.

"Oil, natural gas, coal, water and wood are the world's most utilized energy sources. However, these five are depleting fast. Oil may only last for the next 45 to 50 years," Wan said.

"China has been seen as the world's top producer of and market for cars since 2009, although it is confronting a growing energy crisis and environmental damage."

Beijingers may appreciate the pollution caused by combustion-engine vehicles better than anyone else on the planet. Finding a way to make new-energy vehicles the leaders on the road is an essential step in solving the city's pollution crisis, Wan said.

This year, the city's electric taxi fleet is expected to expand to 1,800 cars. By 2015, it will add another 1,000.

The China State Grid Corp will also open 1,700 public charging stations and 3,000,000 alternating current charging piles in 2015.

According to the government, it is not planning to deploy electric taxis into the downtown area: the downtown is too large for efficient charging.

However, it may add electric buses and sanitation vehicles.

Red Cross aims to bandage organ donor system

By Bao Chengrong

Ever year, China has 1.5 million patients waiting for an organ transplant. Since public donation trials opened three years ago, only 700 volunteer donors have had their organs transplanted successfully.

The embarrassing shortage is forcing the government to act.

The National Management Center for Organ Donations recently announced its plan to implement an online registration system for donors in June, as well as establish a relief fund to support impoverished donors.

The management center, opened last year, is operated by the Red Cross Society of China.

Coming solutions

In the past, organ donors were required to sign up with their nearest provincial management center. The new registration system would enable them to apply anywhere over the Internet.

The new website allows applicants to enter their personal information, including their name, ID number, address and phone number. The management center will issue an organ donor card after verifying the information and adding it to the national database.

"When a Chinese national is dying, the hospitals and coordinators can use the database to check whether he or she has volunteered to be an organ donor," said Gao Xinpu, vice minister of business department at the national management center.

Volunteers and their family members will be given precedence when organs become available.

Gao said the new system can also be a tool to evaluate coordinators' work, since it allows managers immediate access to information coordinators collect at hospitals.

The center is also beginning to implement a new national and provincial Humanistic Relief Fund.

About 90 percent of the successful organ donors come from poor families. The fund would help survivors to pay the deceased's final hospital costs and support their children.

"Even organ recipients would benefit from the fund, since they take the risk of transplant failure. When a transplant fails, even a little support can be a comfort," Gao said.

Uphill battle

The public organ donor system was implemented in 2010 and has been slow to progress.

A decline in the number of death sentences handed down by Chinese courts has made the need for organs even more urgent.

"If we cannot establish a functional and efficient public organ donation system, those in need will be left without help," said Huang Jiefu, deputy minister of health.

During the last three years, fewer than 20,000 volunteers joined the project. Although many attribute



Doctors observe a moment of silence for a dead organ donor.

CFP Photos

The poor rate of donation has less to do with traditional superstitions than a backward administrative system.

—Huang Jiefu

the low donation rate to the traditional superstition about one's body being the property of his parents, Huang disagrees.

A survey of medical universities and colleges nationwide revealed that 7 percent of medical students were willing to donate their organs. Many middle class and migrant workers were also willing to be donors.

"The poor rate of donation has less to do with traditional superstitions than a backward administrative system," Huang said.

Among the 20 successful donations in Zhejiang Province, half were contributed by donors killed in traffic accidents.

Huang said even if 10 percent of the people killed in traffic accidents were willing to be donors, the number of patients who could benefit would be staggering.

Gao said the complex legal procedures can prevent even willing donors from having their organs transplanted in time. In US, a donor



A doctor kisses the youngest organ donor from Inner Mongolia goodbye.

left brain dead in an accident will be air lifted to the nearest hospital for transplant surgery.

The legal definition of "dead" is another sticking point. In more than 90 countries, organs can be removed from the patients once they are classified as brain dead.

In China, since brain death is not part of the limited legal definition eligible for organ transplant, doctors do not remove organs until cardiac death occurs unless parents agree to give up a brain dead child.

But organs become rapidly useless after cardiac death.

The heart is unusable after four minutes, the liver after eight, the kidneys after 30, and the bones and corneas after a day. This short window is exacerbated by the deceased's surviving family, who often interfere in the donation process.

Gao said he spoke to some doctors who worked on ICU for more than 10 years: not one said they had ever asked a dying patient whether he or

she was willing to be an organ donor.

Hu Xiaopeng, a urological surgeon at Chaoyang Hospital, said the topic was "inappropriate," as patients are already very depressed when faced with death.

Popularizing the registry could help to get people interested in donating while they are still healthy.

Of the 700 kidney transplant surgeries Hu has performed during the last few decades, only four have come from volunteer organ donors.

Many netizens distrust the system and are suspicious that the hospitals will sell their organs for profit. Finding a solution to this crisis of trust, which extends far beyond organ donation, is crucial, Hu said.

He suggested the management center improve its registration system, as it could be the most efficient way to convince the deceased's family to agree to a donation.

Huang said that although public organ donation is still in its initial phase, he is confident the donor pool will be in better shape by 2015.

Eccentricity defines artistic filmmaker

By Celine Lin

With shoulder-length hair and vintage attire, Chen Zhou shows a flamboyant and vibrant temperament quite unlike the deep messages and calm ambiance in his films.

Born in 1987 in Zhejiang Province, Chen grabbed the attention of the art world almost as soon as he graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in 2009.

His third exhibition, *I Am Not, Not, Not Chen Zhou*, opened at Magician Gallery on April 18. The sole work is a 35-minute-long video divided into five chapters – “Idols,” “Freedom,” “Secret Mountain,” “Logos” and “The Ending” – each in a yellow cast.

While Chen initially told viewers that the film’s yellow tone and repeating images of smiley faces lacked any special significance, in online interviews he changed his tone.

“I hate this color. I chose it just because yellow has several layers of meaning, being associated with pornography, violence and politics,” he said.

It’s hard to understand his motivation – especially when he said the work is intended to make viewers “feel happy.”

The film opens with an artist symbolically slitting his wrists. He lays down on the ground with the knife and spatters of blood. The text above his body reads, “My only regret is I can’t deceive you.” The scene is followed by gloomy background music.

“It’s a comedy,” Chen said. “One of my friends told me that he considered this work an example of black humor.”

Viewers apparently got the message, because they laughed loudly and often at the screening.

Chen invited his friends, artists Li Ran, Yu Hong Lei and Li Ming, to be involved in the film project.

The conversations between the actors are significant. In one of the chapters, Li Ming whispers to Chen, “Today nothing happened.” In another, Yu muses on the definition of freedom.

Sun Baohui, a gallery operator, called Chen’s film “groundbreaking.”

“While I could somewhat predict the outcomes of his previous films, this one is much more mature,” Sun said.

Chen attributed the complexity to shooting without a plan or a script. “You could say the film directed me and I passively underwent several



Photos provided by Magician Gallery

changes during the shooting process,” he said.

“You can think of the filming process as being in a river – one where time is water, unpurified and full of debris. As it passes, deposits build up along the banks and something begins to

take shape.”

In this film, the role of the director is to become a receptacle for whatever fragments emerge on the sidelines. It’s in these bits that the attributes of the artist emerge, he said.

Curator Su Wei identified

Chen’s work as streaked with hedonism. Although Su did watch Chen’s previous films, he said he had little interest in making a comparison. “It would be a drastic conclusion that would almost certainly be unfair to Chen’s work,” he said.

Chen said his future artistic plan is “to become a cook.” He prepared the desserts and selected the wines that were available at the exhibition’s opening.

I Am Not, Not, Not Chen Zhou will remain on display through June 16.

Japanese director's film about youth finds new home on Chinese stage

By Chen Nan

Memories of youth are poignant in the films by Japanese director Shunji Iwai. Now, a Chinese team is trying to adapt one of his evocative works to the stage.

Forging partnership

If *Midnight in Paris* is Woody Allen's love letter to the heart of France, for Chinese audiences, especially young adults, Shunji Iwai's films are love letters to youth.

Iwai burst onto the international scene in 1995, at the age of 32, with the release of his heartwarming small-budget production *Love Letter*.

One of his later works, *Undo*, will soon be adapted to the stage by Chinese drama director Su Dan. It is scheduled to open next year nationwide.

The story is about a girl diagnosed "Obsessive Knot-Binding Syndrome," and will be set in ancient China.

Moemi, one of the characters, is not pleased when her husband Yukio brings home a couple of turtles meant to keep her company. Moemi feels neglected by her writer husband and desperately wants a dog or cat, neither of which is allowed in their apartment.

Moemi soon develops an obsession, tying up everything with knotted twine – beginning with the turtles. A psychiatrist

diagnoses her with Obsessive Knot-Binding Syndrome, but doesn't offer help. She eventually ties herself into knots with cords stretching across the apartment.

"The story is very short, but I'm still thinking about a longer version," Iwai said. "I'd like to describe the youth's consciousness and point out problems in young people's relationships."

Always the scriptwriter, photographer, composer and director, Iwai is used to doing multiple things at once. He has participated in cultural activities in China before, from documentary to concerts.

His partnership with the more narrative-driven Su came out of an unexpected encounter.

In 2001, Iwai visited China and noticed a small theater work called Obsession for Dolls, directed by Su. Iwai was instantly hooked by the unconstrained style.

"Su's female sensitivity will better help her present the subtle nuance of characters in *Undo*," Iwai said.

Su, who was born in the 1980s, worships Iwai's films, such as *April Story* and *All About Lily Chou-Chou*.



Su Dan

Although the two directors are friends, they didn't think about collaborating until recently. When Su first proposed the idea of adapting *Love Letter*, Iwai was taken aback, as he's never supervised a drama production before.

"But the stage is such an open space; watching *Undo* on a stage is like seeing my lost baby again," he said. "Maybe you have nothing to do with age."

He added that the stage version was very different from the original. "I think many directors tend to be more vague and imaginative, but Su is more clear," he said.

Subtle auteur

Iwai and his stage colleagues couldn't be more different. Iwai is soft-spoken and possesses a subtle wit, and his films are often examinations of humanity or alienation in modern Japan. Su is a boisterous and vivid director whose works are highly stylized and draw on multicultural traditions.

But their works have at least one thing in common: they focus on the relationships between people. Together, they establish an unaffected style without many theatrical gimmicks.

Iwai, known as a standard-bearer of the new Japanese film movement, is perhaps Japan's most promising young screenwriter, sometimes known in China as "Japan's Wong Kar-wai."

While most other directors are devoted to making blockbusters, hoping to copy Hollywood's commercial successes, Iwai strives to find answers to questions about youth.

The impression he leaves is distinct: he is different from his colleagues.

While most directors are talkative, Iwai is quiet. He is willing to listen. He sometimes avoids eye contact, his long black hair partially obscuring his face.

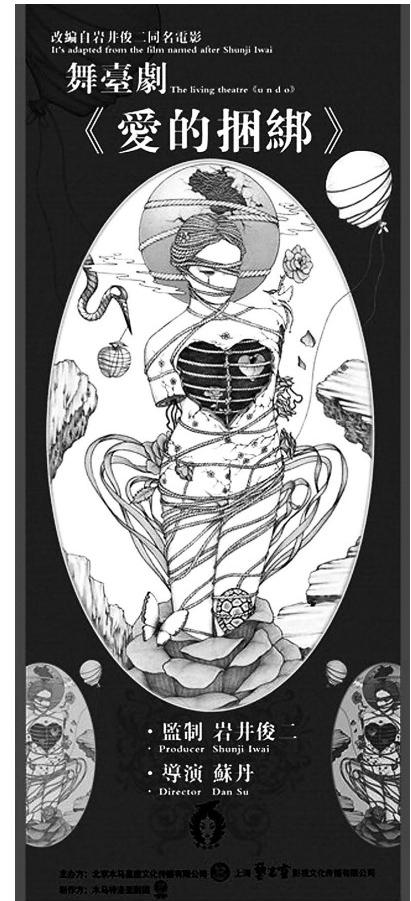
As a visual artist, Iwai is constantly looking across the gulf between camera and theater, simultaneously asking questions of how the former can be employed in service of the latter.

His lens has a highly digital quality, but he finds that the aura of stage has uniquely gorgeous aesthetic edges, more so than digital devices.

Fix a broken vase

Depicting the subtle inner world of human beings is where Iwai's interest lies.

When he was a kid, he was a movie buff. He was run over by a bus once trying to catch the movie *King Kong*.



Undo

While in a hospital bed, he received an unexpected number of letters from sympathetic schoolmates.

He scrutinized those letters for months, and years later, as he was organizing his drawers, he found those letters again and saw them as a sign.

He was heartened by their comforting words, and began working on *Love Letter*. "The movie bridges my past memory and present," he said.

During college, he sometimes skipped dinner to save up for an 8-mm camera. His work was rarely understood by his fellow students though.

After graduating from Yokohama National University, he plunged into the television industry to make money. He shot commercials, music videos and TV dramas.

There wasn't much room for an aspiring art director at first. His big break finally came in 1995.

His short *Undo* won prizes at the Berlin International Film Festival.

"Scriptwriting and shooting is like fixing a broken vase; I need to orderly put my fragmented ideas together, and this procedure is so demanding," he said. "Producing a good story is more like observing things I tend to neglect, turning plain things into dramatic conflicts."

The movies convey sentiments that seem to arise from deep inside the characters, overflowing to the surface – that has been viewed as Iwai's signature.

He explores questions of alienation, consciousness and memory.

"I also like other types of people, eccentric or deviant people," he said. "Sometimes I'm not interested in a normal guy. I prefer people who are missing something."



Shunji Iwai

Photos provided by Trojan House

Bridal gowns, jewelry and men's wear for early summer parties

By Annie Wei

May is the start of the city's party season: hotels are booked for weddings and banquets, sports are in full swing and marketing events are held almost every evening.

Here are some places where you can prepare yourself for these and many more great activities.



Wedding dress from Marchesa, fall 2013

Bridal outfits

Summer is the best time for weddings.

If you are looking for traditional white gowns, you will find lots of options that ooze old-fashioned glamour, with delicate lace, pearls and diamonds (crystals will also do).

For Chinese styles, Shanghai Tangqipao is a good choice, featuring modern elements.

You can find lots of choices at Wukesong's wedding gown mall. Research beforehand, otherwise you will be overwhelmed by the many stores packed with thousands of similar white gowns.

Apart from going through bridal magazines, you can also check websites of leading wedding gown designers such as Vera Wang, Oscar de la Renta and Marchesa for inspiration.

Wukesong Sheying Qicaicheng

Where: 40 Wukesong Lu, Haidian District

Open: 9 am – 5 pm

Tel: 8811 9728 / 9763



CFP Photos

Men's wear

For metrosexuals, fashion is no less important than sports.

On weekends, when you take off your suit, here are three brands to put on: Saint Laurent's slim cut, simple; Saicai, with its detailed animal patterns; and Raf Simons. They are all worth the investment if you want to look chic and smart in the summer's art gallery openings or jazz nights.

These brands have counters at Lace Crawford, but you can find better deals through Taobao buyers.



Above photos are from Saint Laurent, Saicai and Raf Simons.



CFP Photos

The Great Gatsby style

For this year's parties, nothing will be as popular as Great Gatsby-inspired trends – glamour, flapper frocks and Art Deco motifs.

For jewelry, delicate bling-bling diamond earrings, necklaces and headwear will give you that 1920s sparkle.

If you can't afford the luxury pendants from Van Cleef & Arpels, try customized order pieces at Yangrou Hutong, an old alley known for its jewelry vendors.

Check Tiffany & Co's website for inspiration.

For oversea orders, try the more affordable brand J.Crew, which does a retro accessory line every year.

Yangrou Hutong

Where: 100 meters south of Xisi Subway Station, Line 2



Luxury jewelries are popular. CFP Photos

Capital M's new menu, for sharing

By Annie Wei

For many years, traditional and conservative Chinese families have been averse to dining out at Western restaurants.

The main reason, of course, is that they aren't used to Western food, but they also find it not as casual and chaotic as at Chinese restaurants.

But you can be boisterous at some Western restaurants, too – and the idea of going "family style," sharing dishes, is common with Spanish tapas and French cheese platters.

For the coming summer, Capital M at Qianmen is introducing a menu in which all items are meant to be shared.

With a group of four, we shared a plate of organic vegetables with spring white asparagus, poached egg, parmesan, toasted pine nuts and other green leaves as starter; four sauteed scallops on saffron and lemon risotto; then salted cod served with anchovies, steamed vegetables and salsa sauce.

You can order soup – the thick and rich seafood soup



The restaurant's lounge



Capital M's margarita

flavored with fennel and finished with rouille comes in a lovely tea cup.

You should not miss its moussaka, a Greek style of eggplant with meat. Here,

it was vegetarian eggplant pie, smoky eggplant with cherry tomatoes and coriander filling.

For beef lovers, you can share grilled fillet and braised brisket. Each was served with a piece of fatty roasted bone marrow.

Its dessert platter provided a good finish, with its signature Pavlova, just-baked ginger souffle, fruit tarts and cold coconut-flavor ice cream.

The dessert platter can also be ordered during afternoon tea, paired with tea or coffee.

Capital M

Where: 3/F, 2 Qianmen-

Buxingjie, Xicheng District

Open: 11 am – late

Tel: 6702 2727



Grilled pork

Photos provided by Capital M

Exploring interesting French wines

By Annie Wei

Since debuting last year to introduce wines from around France, the Wines of France event has gained a following among wine educators, reporters and bloggers.

Noel Qi, a senior wine expert from Taiwan, said he prefers selecting wines that are interesting, not necessarily expensive.

"Pricey does not mean quality," Qi said at this year's event, held last week at Old Town Rose restaurant in North Sanlitun.

In China, "there are too many so-called wine experts bragging and speaking nonsense online," Qi said. "I think as wine reporters, people should keep questioning."

During the event, Qi selected six bottles, representing different regions.

The first was a bottle of 2009 Chateau des Jacques Moulin a Vent (Beaujolais Cru – AOC).

"Beaujolais can produce quality wine," Qi said. But he thinks that the idea of over-marketing Beaujolais nouveau was fatal for the region.

Beaujolais nouveau are



Six French wines from different regions



Wines of France's tasting event

fresh wines that are only fermented for a few weeks before being released on the third

Thursday of November.

As the wine does not improve with age, it has no

seaux. It was among the tasters' favorite.

The third and fourth bottles were 2009 La Fleur de Bouard Pomerol, with nice Merlot flavor, and 2001 Chateau Ormes de Paz – Saint Estephe.

We liked the fifth bottle, the 2007 Cote-Rotie, Les Bécasses Chapoutier, the most. The sixth one was a 2008 Domaine de Trevallion from Languedoc – Roussillon.

In the city, while more and more people are drinking wine at social events, they also feel it can be intimidating as well.

Photos provided by Fleishman

value in storage.

"Ten years ago back in Taiwan," Qi said, "opening a bottle of Beaujolais nouveau was like opening quality and expensive Bordeaux two years ago."

Although Beaujolais nouveau created a global fever, it makes Beaujolais more simple and inexpensive, with little quality.

The second bottle we tried was the 2008 Gevrey-Chambertin Armand Rous-

There are many who exaggerate their wine knowledge or lie about the vineyards they've visited.

Qi said he only introduces wines he knows personally. There are so many interesting and quality wines out there that people do not know, he said.

Where to buy:

The above wines are special custom-orders that are rarely seen in retail channels. Anyone interested can contact wine importers like ASC-wines for assistance.